

Appl. No. 10/049,452
Amendment dated February 5, 2004
Reply to Office Action of August 6, 2003

REMARKS

Applicants have received and reviewed an Office Action dated August 6, 2003. By way of response, Applicants have canceled claims 62-74 without prejudice. No new matter is presented. Claims 29-61 are pending. Applicants submit that the pending claims are supported by the specification.

For the reasons given below, Applicants submit that the amended claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Double Patenting Rejections

The Examiner rejected claims 39-79 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1-68 of U.S. Patent No. 6,576,298 B2. The Examiner rejected claim 56 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1-38 of U.S. Patent No. 6,427,826 B1. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Applicants submit herewith a Terminal Disclaimer, which overcomes these rejections. Applicants submit this terminal disclaimer solely to advance prosecution of this application and not to acquiesce to these rejections.

Accordingly, withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

The Examiner rejected claims 62-74 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as claiming the same invention as claims 39, 45-47, 51, 56-58, 60-61, and 68-70 of prior U.S. Patent No. 6,427,826 B1. Applicants have canceled claims 62-74, which renders this rejection moot. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

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Summary

In summary, Applicants submit that each of claims 29-61 are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below, if the Examiner believes that doing so will expedite prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date:

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